ISO/TC97/SC22

N277

December 1986

TITLE: Minutes of the First ISO/TC97/SC22 Advisory Meeting
held in Vienna, Austria, 1986-11-11/13

SOURCE: Secretariat ISO/TC97/SC22

WORK ITEM: N/A

STATUS: New

CROSS REFERENCE: 97/22 N251

DOCUMENT TYPE: Minutes of Meeting

ACTION: For information to SC22 Member Bodies

1. Opening of the Meeting

   Dr. Lang opened the ISO/TC97/SC22 Advisory Group meeting on behalf of the Austrian Standards Institute. Dr. Lang welcomed delegates to Vienna and explained that Austria, like many other countries, faces numerous problems in standardization, because it is a small country and has a limited amount of resources. In closing, he wished the committee much success and a happy stay in Vienna.

   Mr. G. Schmitt, on behalf of the Technical University of Vienna, welcomed delegates to Vienna and invited them and their spouses to attend a lunch at the City Hall on November 11, 1986 and to a dinner on November 12, 1986.

2. Chairman's Remarks

   Mr. Kearney, Chairman of the ISO/TC97/SC22AG explained that a lot of work was ahead of the Advisory Group during the meeting and that he hoped to address the issue of project priorities. He also questioned the progress in some areas. He then went on to welcome the new convenors of ISO/TC97/SC22 and noted that it was of prime importance for the convenors to produce timely reports and to submit to the SC22 Secretariat agenda and minutes of WG meetings.

3. Roll Call of Delegates

   The Secretariat invited delegates to introduce themselves. The attendance list, document 97/22N273 is attached to these minutes.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

   The following changes were made to the draft agenda:

   Agenda item 9.7 was moved to agenda item 9.3;

   Agenda item 9.9 - PL/I was added;

   The following discussion points were added to agenda item 12.2: Data Validation, Vienna Development Method, Text I/O, Compiler Output;

   Agenda item 15 - Programming Language CHILL, document 97/22N244 was added.

   Mr. B. Meek, seconded by Mr. Bickle then proposed the following motion:

   "Move to adopt the agenda with the above changes."

   The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Appointment of the Drafting Committee

    The following delegates were appointed to the Drafting Committee:

    Chairman -   L. Dickey - Canada
              -   T. Holka - France
              -   R. Scowen - U.K.
              -   R. Mathis - U.S.
              -   J. Côté - Secretariat

6. Secretariat's Report

    6.1 SC22 Project Information

         The Secretariat referred to the SC22 Project Information
         document and requested that convenors report errors and
         provide update information to the Secretariat on a continuing
         basis because this document will be used to update the TC97
         Project Database.

    6.2 SC22 Letter Ballots

         The Secretariat expressed some concerns about SC22 Member
         Bodies who do not return letter ballots before closing date.

         Following a lengthy discussion on this subject, the Chairman
         summarized the situation and proposed the following means of
         solving the problem:

         -   SC22 Member Bodies will be reminded of the ISO Directive
             on voting;

         -   the Secretariat will be asked to take the necessary steps
             to enforce the ISO Directives;

         -   SC22 Secretariat will investigate the possibility of
             using electronic mail.

         Recommendations 1 and 2 address this issue.

7. Review of ISO/TC97 Resolutions Adopted at the Thirteenth Plenary
    Meeting of ISO/TC97

    Document 97/22N215, Resolutions Adopted at the Thirteenth Plenary
    Meeting of ISO/TC97, was reviewed and the Chairman briefly outlined
    those of concern to SC22:

    -   appointment of Vice-Chairman, Application and Elements
        Grouping;

    -   appointment of SC22 Chairman;

    -   approval of SC22 Title and Area of Work;

- fast track procedure;

- TC97 operating procedures;

- special working group on functional standards;

- special working group on interpretation and maintenance of TC97 standards.

8. Review of the Composition and Role of SC22AG

The Chairman introduced document 97/22N236 which had been circulated to SC22 Member Bodies and asked for advice on this document.

Following a discussion, during which a number of changes were proposed, it was noted that delegates were in general agreement with the content of the document and it was decided that the Secretariat should prepare a revised version incorporating proposed changes and that it be circulated with a letter ballot to SC22 Member Bodies (Recommendation 15).

9. Project Review/Status Report

9.1 WG2 - Project 97.22.19 Pascal Extensions

Mr. Meek, on behalf of Mr. Wichmann, convenor of SC22/WG2, presented the activity report of this working group, document 97/22N258.

9.2 WG6 Project 97.22.03 - Hardware Representation of Algol

The Chairman referred delegates to document 97/22N242 and invited comments on this document.

At this point, Mr. Van Wingen explained that ISO RI672 had been registered as a technical report because six negative votes could not be resolved. He also suggested that the document should now be registered as a DP.

Following a discussion of this work item, it was recommended that the Secretariat initiate the actions proposed in 97/22N242 (Recommendation 5).

9.3 WG10 Project 97.22.13 - Guidelines for the Preparation of Language Standards

Mr. Meek, convenor of SC22/WG10, outlined the content of document 97/22N248 and N249. He explained that, in WG10's view, document N248 was not meant to be a set of directives but rather that it should be used as a guideline in preparing language standards.

Mr. Meek went on to explain the content of document N249 and indicated that this report was the result of a meeting of the subgroup on formal semantics which was held in Scotland, last May. In closing Mr. Meek thanked the experts who produced document N249.

WG10's Final Report and Recommendations

Mr. Meek presented the recommendations prepared by WG10 which are contained in document 97/22N247. In the course of a discussion on each of these, a number of points were raised such as liaison to IFIP/TC2, NWI proposals, further processing of N248, etc. As a result, Recommendations 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 16 were prepared.

9.4 WG11 Projects 97.22.14, 97.22.16, 97.22.17

Mr. Nelson, interim convenor of SC22/WG11, presented the activity report of WG11, document 97/22N267. It was noted that a first working draft on Binding Guidelines was currently being circulated to SC22 Member Bodies for comments (doc 97/22N261). Mr. Nelson indicated that he had sent notification to past members of WG11 inviting them to participate in the work of WG11 and that, to date, only two members had replied.

At this point, the Chairman noted that the difficulty in recruiting members for WG11 results from the fact that there are not many experts in this area and also because potential members do not know what to expect in terms of involvement. Finally, it was suggested that the Secretariat circulates with the letter ballot for the appointment of the SC22/WG11 convenor an invitation to SC22 Member Bodies to nominate experts to the working group and further more to remind Member Bodies who supported the above work items of their obligation.

9.5 WG13 - Project 97.22.18 Modula 2

Mr. Meek, on behalf of Dr. Henry, convenor of SC22/WG13, presented the activity report of this working group, document 97/22N271.

It was noted that document 97/22N253 - appointment of Dr. Henry as convenor of SC22/WG13 had recently been circulated to SC22 Member Bodies. Mr. Meek mentioned Member Body participation in this group and invited other Member Bodies, who are not yet represented, to nominate experts to SC22/WG13.

9.6 WG14 - Project 97.22.20C

Mr. Follett, on behalf of Mr. Hersee, convenor of SC22/WG14, presented document 97/22N259 which constitutes the minutes of the first meeting of SC22/WG14. The chairman reminded

delegates that Mr. Hersee had been appointed convenor of
SC22/WG14 in accordance with resolutions prepared at the first
plenary meeting of SC22.

Mr. Genuys asked Mr. Follett about the number of members of
SC22/WG14. Since Mr. Follett did not have an immediate
answer, it was decided that Mr. Hersee be asked to submit a
list of members to the Secretariat for circulation to SC22
Member Bodies.

9.7 WG12 Project 97.22.15 Conformity Requirements and Testing

Dr. Sidi, convenor of SC22/WG12, presented the activity report
of this working group, document 97/22N269. Dr. Sidi asked
about the status of WG12's Guidelines on Conformity
Requirements and Testing. She wanted to know whether it will
be published as a standard or as a technical report?

Following a discussion of this issue, it was recommended that
SC22 Member Bodies be polled, by means of a letter ballot, to
determine how SC22 feels about the production of a standard
which describes guidelines. At this point, it was also noted
that the Guideline Register, produced by WG13 should be
processed in the same manner (Recommendation 7).

Dr. Sidi then asked the chairman to clarify the scope of WG12
in relation to Certification. The Chairman reported that the
issue of Certification had been discussed with TC97 secretariat
and as a result, SC22 was informed that Certification is not
and should not be within the program of work of WG12.

In closing, the delegate from France suggested that someone be
appointed by TC97 to keep track of conformance issues raised
throughout ISO/TC97.

9.8 PL/I - Project 97.22.5, 97.22.6

The Secretariat reported on the progress of these projects and
explained why document 97/22N224 had been circulated without a
letter ballot. Mr. Follett outlined the content of the PL/I
standard and the general purpose subset.

As a result of discussing these projects, it was recommended
that a normal 90-day letter ballot be circulated by the
Secretariat (Recommendation 9).

10. Report of Ad Hoc Group on Lisp/Prolog

Dr. Mathis, convenor of this Ad Hoc group presented the final
report of this group, document 97/22N266. He outlined the Ad Hoc
group recommendation which are as follows:

-    a NWI proposal on Prolog be circulated to SC22 Member Bodies
     with appropriate letter ballot;

- a new working group be established and BSI be invited to provide its secretarial support;

- appointment of R. Scowen, UK as convenor;

- a NWI proposal on LISP be circulated to SC22 Member Bodies with appropriate letter ballot;

- a new working group be established and ANSI or AFNOR be invited to provide its secretarial support;

- appointment of either Mr. C. Queinnec, France or Dr. Mathis, US as its convenor.

It was later agreed that while France would be invited to nominate a convenor and provide secretarial support for the working group, the US would be invited to supply the project editor (Recommendations 10 and 11).

11.   Review of the Procedures for Revision of Standards and Addenda for the Interpretation of Standards

The Chairman noted that document 97N1721 - Report of TC97AG special WG on Interpretation and Maintenance had been circulated to SC22 Member Bodies as 97/22N237 and invited comments on this document.

In the course of a discussion it was noted that SC22 should be cautious on issues relating to interpretation and revision of language standards. It was also pointed out that working groups should definitely be consulted on matters pertaining to standards developed by them. Finally, it was decided that SC22 ask TC97 to appoint SC22 as the maintenance agency for all standards within the Scope and Programme of Work of SC22 (Recommendation 13).

12.   Discussion of Potential NWI's for SC22

12.1 Anticipated NWI's

(i)   LISP/Prolog: It was noted that the Secretariat would circulate new work item proposals and letter ballots for LISP and Prolog to SC22 Member Bodies.

(ii)   APL Extensions: Dr. Dickey, recently appointed convenor of SC22/WG3 presented a new work item proposal on APL extensions, document 97/22N274.

There was some concerns expressed about the fact that the NWI proposal may develop into an extended standard and not an incremental one.

It was also suggested that the proposal not be open ended. At this point, Dr. Dickey explained that the proposal had been prepared with an open list at the insistence of WG3 members.

Finally, it was recommended that the proposal be circulated to SC22 Member Bodies for approval. Recommendation 12 refers.

(iii)   POSIX: Mr. Follett outlined the content of a NWI proposal contained in document 97/22N268. It was noted that the proposal had already been forwarded by the US member body to TC97 for approval. In that proposal it recommended that the approved NWI be assigned to SC22. It was also noted that the Chairman was asked by TC97 to prepare a management assessment of the NWI. Following a lengthy discussion on the content of the expected standard, it was recommended that the Chairman, in his management assessment of this proposal, clarify the content of this work item with TC97 and indicate that, if approved, SC22 would be prepared to accept it in its Programme of Work. It was also agreed that the US Member Body would prepare a paper providing clarification of this work item to SC22 Member Bodies before the end of the TC97 letter ballot. Recommendation 14 refers.

In closing, the Chairman indicated that he was not pleased with the fact that the NWI proposal had been forwarded directly to TC97. Bypassing SC22 was contrary to the outcome of discussions that took place during the first plenary meeting of SC22.

12.2 Others

(i)   Vienna Development Method

Mr. Meek described the content of document 97/22N272 which supersedes 97/22 N252, recently circulated to SC22 Member Bodies. He outlined the current work being done in the UK and indicated that the content of N252 had been forwarded to SC22 in accordance with the Principle of Operation of SC22 described in 97/22N168R.

(ii)   Computer Output

Mr. Genuys explained that since the output from compilers is used in the development of software engineering tools, SC22 may wish to consider standardizing the format and content of these output files. In closing, he noted that such a proposal is expected to be discussed at the next Fortran WG meeting.

(iii)   <u>Data Validation</u>

Mr. Meek outlined the content of document Vienna-1.
Following a short discussion on this item Mr. Meek
agreed to arrange for further contribution on this
topic to stimulate further discussion at the next
Plenary meeting of SC22.

(iv)   <u>M/L</u>

Mr. Genuys agreed to forward to the Secretariat
information material on this language for
distribution to SC22 Member Bodies.

(v)   <u>Text I/O</u>

Further material on this subject will be forwarded
to the Secretariat for distribution to SC22 Member
Bodies.

13. <u>Review of current work item selection and prioritization</u>

In reviewing the current work items within the SC22 Programme of
Work, the following questions and concerns were raised:

<u>Basic</u>: delegates expressed a concern about the attendance at the
last meeting of the Basic WG. It was also noted that the next
meeting of WG8 will be held jointly with the ANSI working group.

<u>COBOL</u>: Mr. Genuys questioned whether WG4 was exceeding its mandate
by working on addenda.

<u>APL</u>: It was suggested that if the APL WG wishes to extend its
programme of work, it should submit a proper request and/or a NWI
proposal to SC22.

<u>ALGOL</u>: It was noted that the revision of ALGOL-60 is due for 1989.

<u>WG11</u>: There was some concern expressed about WG11's responsibility
for liaison and the fact that its membership is very low. The
Chairman asked the convenor of this working group to make an
assessment of its work and membership and report his findings to
SC22.

<u>General</u>: The Chairman expressed some concern about his overall
awareness of the SC22 Programme of Work. He also asked to consider
whether SC22 could develop some criteria by which we could
determine the usefulness of a standard in order to determine
priority for projects.

Finally, the Chairman suggested that SC22 Member Bodies be asked
for contribution on how to determine priority of projects within
SC22 and contributions on strategic and long-term objectives for
SC22. Recommendation 6 refers.

14. Liaison

14.1 Review of TC97/SC21 Liaison Arrangements

Document 97/22N243 was reviewed and delegates felt that arrangements described in this document were adequate.

14.2 Review of Other Liaison Arrangements

SC2/SC18: Mr. Holka, SC22 liaison representative to SC2 and SC18 reported that until now, there was no liaison requirement to SC18. However, since SC18 is planning to begin work in the standardization of spreadsheets, SC22 liaison will definitely be required.

Concerning SC2 liaison, it was recommended that Mr. Holka prepare a brief report describing the status and relationship between the various SC2 character set standards and draft standards. Recommendation 19 refers.

IFIP/TC2: It was agreed that IFIP/TC2 be invited to the next Plenary meeting of SC22.

CCITT: It was noted that with the disbandment of SC22/WG10, our liaison representative to CCITT will need to be changed.

Mr. Bickle was asked to review CCITT liaison requirements.

15. Other Issues

(1) Programming Language - CHILL

The Chairman noted that document 97/22N244 had been circulated to SC22 Member Bodies for information only and that specific SC22 action will be initiated by TC97's.

In the course of a discussion of this document, it was pointed out that the document is not in the format of ISO standards. Finally, Mr. Robinson, Vice-Chairman Application and Elements Grouping was asked to express the following SC22 concerns to the TC97AG:

(1) SC22 has limited capabilities for handling such complex standards during such a short time frame;

(2) our program of work is full and addressing this issue on such short notice will disrupt our work.

16. Recommendations and Statement of Results

Recommendations contained in document 97/22N276 were all unanimously approved.

17. <u>Requirements Concerning a Subsequent Meeting</u>

   17.1 <u>Confirmation of Plenary Meeting</u>

   Mr. Follett confirmed the date and location for the next SC22 Plenary Session, being hosted by the US Member Body, as follows:

   Date: September 7-11, 1987

   Location: <u>Plenary</u>: Quality Inn, Capitol Hill

   <u>Ad Hoc and Special Group</u>: CBEMA, 311 first street
   Washington, DC

   17.2 <u>Next SC22AG Meeting</u>

   Mr. Tokunaga indicated that the Japanese Member Body was prepared to host the next SC22AG meeting. It was agreed that, tentatively, the meeting would be held in Tokyo in October 1988. It was also agreed that the exact date and location of the meeting would be confirmed during the next SC22 Plenary session.

   It was also noted that the UK Member Body offered to host the subsequent meeting of the SC22AG, scheduled for 1990.
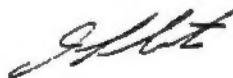
18. <u>Adjournment</u>

   Before adjourning the meeting, the Chairman thanked all delegates for their cooperation and participation at this meeting.

   The Chairman also thanked Mr. Schmitt and Mr. Schornbock for the organization of this meeting and the great reception.

   The first meeting of the ISO/TC97/SC22 Advisory Group was adjourned at 13:15, November 13, 1986.

   Respectfully submitted,

   J.L. Côté,
   Secretariat, ISO/TC97/SC22.